



# MADD

Activism | Victim Services | Education™

3  
3-15-05  
HB 91  
Mothers Against Drunk Driving  
GALLATIN COUNTY  
P.O. Box 11002  
Bozeman, MT 59719-1002  
Phone (406)585-4225  
Fax (406)585-3009

**HB 91 Open Container  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
March 15, 2005**

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Committee. For the record my name is Bill Muhs, Public Policy Liaison for MADD-Gallatin County.

Today marks the 7<sup>th</sup>, and hopefully the last time, I have testified on behalf of Mothers Against Drunk Driving on an Open Container bill during the past two legislative sessions. I will try not to repeat my testimony in this Committee when previous OC Bills were heard. Instead, I would like to focus on some key points.

--- By a large majority, the citizens of Montana clearly want this bill to become law. And I do not think that they want a watered down version that lacks serious sanctions because drinking and driving is a serious offense in their minds. Montanan's are incredulous that we do not have an OC law.

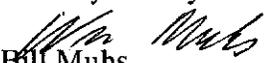
---This bill has nothing to do with individual freedom. It is however, about the right of the public to have safer highways. Clearly this must take precedence because driving is a privilege and not a right.

--- Allowing people to drink alcoholic beverages while driving reduces the credibility of Montana's resolve to enforce our DUI laws.

---If we want to reduce the carnage from DUI crashes in Montana, then we need to change behavior. That must start with adults. How many more kids do we want growing up watching their parents drink and drive?

---This bill passed the House with no amendments that would trivialize the offense of drinking and driving by masking the offense or incorporating token fines. I hope you will pass this bill in its present form and move Montana forward in our efforts to save lives.

Thank you very much.

  
Bill Muhs  
Public Policy Liaison  
MADD-Gallatin County